

SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS RELEASE

PUBLICITY DIVISION · MINISTRY OF CULTURE · CITY HALL SINGAPORE 6

MC/SEP/51/78 (Education)

National Archives and
Records Centre, Singapore.

30 SEP 1978

Acc. No. NARC 'THE HISTORY OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN MAN' ON SATURDAY, 23/9/1978
11.00 A.M. AT THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S GALLERY, NATIONAL MUSEUM.

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Southeast Asia is a region in which there are many different races, religions and cultures. It has a long history of cultural achievements which can be seen not only in Angkor Wat in Cambodia, but also in Borobudur in Java as well as in the traditional art and crafts of all these countries. Southeast Asia is also a region with a long and eventful history of wars and conflicts. These arose from the interactions and conflicts of different races and rivals, competing for political and economic dominance. The final victors would impose their influences on the way of life of the people they rule.

The study of Southeast Asian history will therefore help us to know and appreciate our cultural heritage. It will also make us aware of our political and socio-economic background. In times of adversity, this knowledge will serve as a binding force to hold the people together, making it possible for us to face the future with greater confidence.

In schools, the teaching of history must not only be taken as a means to impart knowledge of facts, it should also be taken as an avenue to learn human nature and how human beings react to various events in time of crisis. Our history teachers should therefore help our pupils to appreciate the spirit and courage of our forefathers in their struggle for survival and freedom. They should also help them to emulate our early pioneers and develop qualities of enterprise, industry, perseverance and thrift. This is particularly important today when our society is becoming more and more affluent and stable.

Finally, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the pupils and teachers and the National Museum for this highly informative display.

I have now the pleasure of declaring the Exhibition open.